



Milwaukee County

Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic

Supervisor John F. Weishan, Jr.

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S VETOES ARE PUZZLING; COUNTY BOARD TO PUT THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

Leadership from County Board will preserve safety net and quality-of-life services

Milwaukee, WI – Milwaukee County Supervisors John F. Weishan, Jr., and Marina Dimitrijevic are responding to the County Executive's 2008 budget vetoes, issued this morning. Among the 23 vetoes, the County Executive cut funding for public safety, parks, housing, and important safety net services.

"One of the best ways to increase public safety is through prevention programs," Supervisor Weishan said. "If sustained, the County Executive's vetoes of funding for alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs, as well as programs that help juveniles stay out of trouble, would put an even larger burden on the Courts system. His proposed cuts to Courts, combined with vetoing these safety net programs, would be a bad combination. Processing criminals is a critical part of public safety. That's why the County Board will, once again, step in to preserve these vital programs."

The County Executive had proposed closing the Community Correctional Center and replacing it with electronic monitoring, which would be a major change in the way we handle inmates on work-release. "Mistakes have recently been made in this part of our correctional system, so we need to be especially careful moving forward with this plan," Supervisor Dimitrijevic added. "It's puzzling that the County Executive vetoed his involvement in the County Board's desire to have monthly briefings on the status of this change, which he had proposed."

Both Supervisors are disappointed that the County Executive vetoed other key safety net services, programs for individuals with mental illnesses and help for those who become disabled, but are not yet covered under Social Security. "The County Executive has made it clear that he is not interested in helping people with mental or physical disabilities. They need our help the most," said Supervisor Weishan.

"To say the least, I am also shocked that the County Executive chose to veto my amendment to use future land sale revenue to fund affordable housing projects," Supervisor Dimitrijevic said. "We constantly hear the County Executive claim that Milwaukee County is not an affordable place to live. We're trying to provide more affordable housing options, but his veto certainly doesn't help."

“It’s funny how things change. Finally, the County Executive has listened to thousands of residents who have expressed their frustration with his illogical route segment eliminations,” Supervisor Dimitrijevic added. “I am pleased he has come around to accept that a paratransit fare increase would be devastating for disabled individuals who are unable to drive a car. He should not have ignored them in his 2008 Recommended Budget.”

“Once again, in the absence of any true leadership from the County Executive, the County Board will have to step in and provide these core services for the disadvantaged and unfortunate in our community,” Supervisor Weishan concluded.

The County Board will consider all 23 vetoes from the County Executive in reference to the 2008 County Budget on Wednesday, November 14, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in Room 200 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse. A two-thirds majority (13 votes) is required to override.

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